

NATIONAL DEFENSE COUNCIL ACTS ON STRIKE

FINAL
EDITION

The

Evening

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CZAR DEPOSED BY THE DUMA; HASN'T ABDICATED; IN HIDING

PRESIDENT NAMES BOARD TO CONFER ON PLAN TO AVERT RAILROAD STRIKE

Brotherhood Chiefs Refuse to Parley Further—Rumors of Disaffection in West—Passenger, Mail and Milk Trains Get Five Days Grace.

WASHINGTON, March 16.—The Council of National Defense, including several Cabinet members, at a meeting here to-day took up the threatened nation-wide railroad strike.

Immediately after the meeting the Cabinet members went to the White House for the first meeting in two weeks, called primarily for a discussion of the railroad situation.

Decision by the Government to take a vigorous course of action in the strike situation was indicated this afternoon when, following the Cabinet meeting,

Secretaries Lane and Wilson, President Willard of the B. & O., and Samuel Gompers have been designated to confer with railway managers and Brotherhood chiefs on the strike.

Hope was expressed that a tie-up paralyzing the commerce of the country could be thus averted.

Secretary Baker issued the following statement late this afternoon:

"Acting under a plan suggested by the National Council of Defense to-day Secretary Lane, Secretary Wilson, Daniel Willard and Samuel Gompers, all members of the advisory council of the Council of National Defense, will go to New York to confer immediately with representatives of both sides with the end in view of bringing about an adjustment of the differences and avoid a serious situation developing at a time of international crisis.

"This action was taken subject to the approval of the President, and his approval has been given."

Unless President Wilson, with the support of his Cabinet, should interpose the vast powers of the national Government, a nation-wide railroad strike will be declared tomorrow evening at 7 o'clock.

All hope of a compromise agreement between the Big Four union chiefs and the railroad managers disappeared this afternoon, when the union leaders announced they would have no further dealings with the Conference Committee of Railroad Executives.

"If the union leaders have any propositions to make we are waiting here to receive them," said Ellisha Lee, Chairman of the Managers' Conference Committee at the Grand Central terminal.

"Our door is open too," said W. C. Lee, spokesman of the union chiefs. "We are willing to let the railroad managers play in our yard if they will cross the street to the Belmont Hotel."

Telegrams received this afternoon from Western and Southern railroad centers indicate that all is not harmonious in the unions over the proposition to call a strike at this time. It is claimed by the Railroad Managers Committee that the engineers and conductors of the St. Louis-Southwestern—the Cotton Belt Route of which Edwin Gould is Chairman—have notified the grand officers of their unions that they will not obey a strike call.

The St. Louis Southwestern, it is said, has an agreement with its engineers which is satisfactory. The

U. S. NAVY GUNNERS WARNED OF FIRING SQUAD IN GERMANY

Paper Declares Crews of Armed Ships Will Die If They Attack U. Boats.

CITES FATE OF FRYATT.

May Be Treated According to Usages of War, Though Not of the Enemy.

BERNE, Switzerland, March 16.—The crews of armed American merchantmen who venture to fire upon German submarines before a state of war exists between Germany and the United States must expect to meet the same fate as Capt. Fryatt, who was tried by a German court-martial and executed, warns the Muenchner Neueste Nachrichten.

"We assume," the newspaper says, "that President Wilson realizes the fate to which he is subjecting his artillerymen. If, without being attached to the forces of the enemy, they take part in hostilities or make forcible resistance, they may be treated according to the usages of war."

"If President Wilson, knowing these provisions of international law, proceeds to arm American merchantmen he must assume responsibility for the eventuality that American seamen will meet the fate of Capt. Fryatt."

ALLEGED GERMAN SPIES TO BE TRIED WEDNESDAY

George Vaux Bacon to Be Chief Witness for Government Against Sanders and Wunnenburg.

Federal Judge Van Fleet today set next Wednesday as the date for the trial of Albert O. Sanders and Karl N. Wunnenburg, arrested several weeks ago and now in jail in default of \$20,000 bail, charged with instigating in the United States a military enterprise against a country with which this nation is at peace.

The two prisoners are charged with having sent "free lance" newspapermen to England to gather information which was to be turned over to Germany.

George Vaux Bacon, one of those newspapermen arrested in London and brought back here a few days ago, will be the Government's principal witness against Sanders and Wunnenburg. Bacon testified before the special grand jury yesterday and was in conference today with the Federal attorneys and officials of the Department of Justice.

BELGIAN RELIEF SHIPS TO BE SPARED BY U BOATS

Ships carrying supplies to Belgium for the Commission for Relief in Belgium are now immune from German submarine attack, if they follow the northern route, according to a statement given out at the commission's headquarters here to-day.

The announcement followed receipt of a cablegram from London stating that instructions have been sent to German submarines to spare the relief ships.

The cable said six ships, which had been held in Rotterdam pending developments, sailed with the German assurance that they would be allowed safe passage.

GERARD GREETED BY GREAT CROWD; 10,000 JAM PIER

Reception Begins at Communion Depot and Ends at the City Hall.

PARADE UP BROADWAY.

Sergeants of Envoy's Old Company in Twelfth Regiment Guard of Honor.

Ambassador James W. Gerard returned to New York to-day and was given a reception fit for a conqueror coming back from the wars.

Accompanied by an escort of soldiers and civilians, bands and automobiles, the Envoy reached the City Hall shortly before 2 o'clock, where he was formally welcomed by John B. Stanchfield on behalf of the Mayor's Committee and by Mayor Mitchell on behalf of the city.

Mayor Mitchell lauded Mr. Gerard for his unwavering fidelity to his country. He made a plea to the people to preserve the unity of the nation and urged them to fight for preparedness. He denounced pacifists generally, and specifically a small group in Congress who opposed the President's will.

GRATEFUL FOR THE RECEPTION, SAYS GERARD.

Mr. Gerard's reply was as follows: "You must know how deeply grateful I am for this reception to-day, how grateful I am for the very kind words spoken by your Mayor and by Mr. Stanchfield, but in summing up my work in Germany I ask you to remember that I had the assistance of a very devoted band of secretaries, of a small but faithful family of one, and the backing of our efficient Department of State, and no less, at all times, the approval, the wise counsel, the skillful guidance of that man who will stand in American history beside Washington and Lincoln—our President, Woodrow Wilson."

"We are standing to-day very near the brink of war, but I want to assure you that if we should be drawn into the conflict it will be only after our President has exhausted every means consistent with upholding the honor and dignity of the United States to keep us from war. I left Berlin with a clear conscience, because I felt that during all my stay there I omitted nothing to make for friendly relations and peace between the two nations."

GLAD TO SEE GERMAN NAMES IN THE LIST.

"I am very glad to-day to see on the list of this Reception Committee the names of people of German descent. It is but natural that citizens of German descent in the beginning of the war should have a sentimental feeling toward Germany, that they should have looked back through rose-colored glasses on that land which, however, they left because they did not have equality of opportunity."

"We read to-day in the newspapers for the first time that there is a prospect that after the war the Germans will be given an equal share in their own government. I believe that in our hour of trial we can rely upon the loyalty of our citizens of German descent, and if they would follow me I would not be afraid to go out with them."

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Policy of the New Russia to Give Power to People, Says Minister Milukoff

No One Had Confidence in the Government, He Declares.

COMPLETELY ISOLATED.

Final Victory in War Predicted as Result of the Revolution.

PETROGRAD, March 16.—"The problems which we are going to solve consist of the re-establishment in Russia of a power capable of giving the people final victory over the enemy," said Prof. Paul Milukoff, the new Foreign Minister and one of the most prominent liberal leaders of Russia, in a statement to-day to the Associated Press.

"The great crime of the late Government consisted of throwing the country into complete disorganization and subjecting it to the hardest trials. This state of affairs might even have had dangerous effects on the issue of the war. The increase of popular discontent was the cause of the turn which events have taken. The anger of the people was such that the Russian revolution was almost the shortest and most bloodless in history."

"The late Government was completely isolated, which confirms the fact that no one had confidence in it. The great events of the last few days make it possible for the people to gain fresh confidence. These events will increase popular enthusiasm and multiply the national forces, giving them at last power to win the war."

"During a few days the Duma attracted to itself the attention of the whole nation and was the centre of enormous moral force. To-day it has material force also at its disposal, seeing that the army has taken its side. Every hour brings news bearing witness to the continual growth of power of the forces of national representation."

"The new Government considers it indispensable that the abdication of the Emperor be confirmed and the regency temporarily entrusted to Grand Duke Michael Alexandrovitch. Such is our decision. We consider it impossible to alter it."

SAYS RUSSIA WAS ON VERGE OF QUITTING ALLIES

Sturmer Had Planned Separate Peace, but Was Foiled by Milukoff.

LONDON, March 16.—"Prof. Milukoff (the new Russian Foreign Minister) formerly was a member of the Socialist Party. He was feted as one of our comrades in England a few years ago. He has the confidence of the Russian Socialists and labor men," said Henry M. Hyndman, the Socialist leader to-day.

"M. Kerevski (Russian Minister of Justice), the Socialist leader in the Duma, is acting with the Provisional Committee of the Duma.

"There is no harm in saying now what has long been known in official circles, namely, that Russia was on the very point of making a separate peace with Germany last autumn, through Premier Sturmer. The action of Prof. Milukoff in the Duma forced the resignation of M. Sturmer and saved the Entente from the most dangerous intrigue since the beginning of the war."

"But the intrigue was only scotched, not killed, and we were on the eve of another movement of the same kind, through Protopopoff, the deposed Minister of the Interior, when Prof. Milukoff and others in the Duma again saved the situation, thus time by the bold step of revolution."

LIBERAL PARTY LEADER WHO OVERTHREW RULE OF RUSSIAN PREMIER



PROF. MILUKOFF.

Prof. Paul N. Milukoff, leader of the Liberal Party in the Russian Duma, who took a leading part in the overthrow of Premier Sturmer and his associates, has been made Foreign Minister in the new National Cabinet.

NURSES AVERT FIRE PANIC IN BELLEVUE HOSPITAL

Burning Wax Sends Smoke Clouds Through Wards and Scars Patients.

Thick clouds of smoke poured from the kitchen of the men's surgical ward on the second floor of Building M of Bellevue Hospital this morning and caused excitement among the fifty-six patients there. Robert Johnson, a floor polisher, was ordered to wax the floor of the ward. The wax had congealed and he placed it on a gas stove to soften. The substance boiled over and the turpentine blazed up, throwing off the heavy smoke.

Miss Clauson, head nurse of the ward, ordered all the doors closed and sounded the emergency fire alarm, bringing fireman Martin J. Murphy and the fire brigade of the hospital, less than a minute after the alarm was sounded. The squad had untied their hose and began to soak blankets with which they finally smothered the blazing oil.

In the meantime the smoke had gone through the wards on the third and fourth floors. The patients became alarmed, but the nurses quieted them.

UNIVERSAL SUFFRAGE TO PREVAIL IN RUSSIA; NOBLES JOIN REVOLUTION

Czar Was Advised to Step From the Throne by Grand Duke Nicholas, Whom He Had Humiliated While Directing Victorious Army.

AMNESTY TO BE GIVEN TO POLITICAL OFFENDERS

LONDON, March 16.—Czar Nicholas's abdication of the throne of Russia has not yet been effected, Chancellor of the Exchequer Bonar Law announced in the House of Commons to-day.

The Chancellor read a telegram received from the British Ambassador in Petrograd.

It stated that while the Czar's abdication and appointment of the Grand Duke Michael as regent had been decided upon by the executive committee of the Duma, such steps "had not yet been effected."

The message concluded: "The Czar's whereabouts are not known."

At a conference of the members of the Duma Executive Committee and delegates representing the workmen, which lasted until 5 o'clock this morning, an agreement was reached concerning the transitional period before the election of a Constituent Assembly. The executives insisted in the interests of the war on the necessity of order being re-established before the holding of the elections.

The workmen at first opposed the proposals of the Executive Committee, but later the Socialist Deputy, Kerensky, accepted the portfolio of Minister of Justice on condition that the Constituent Assembly would be convened.

The elections will be based on universal suffrage.

PETROGRAD, March 16.—The Grand Duke Nicholas, commanding the army of the Caucasus, telegraphed President Rodzianko of the Duma to-day that, in agreement with Gen. Alexieff, Russian Chief of Staff of the Army, he advised the Czar to abdicate. Such action, he held, was the only possible step to save Russia, bring the war to a successful conclusion and avoid fateful circumstances.

Fifteen assemblies of the Russian nobility met to-day and adopted resolutions declaring their participation in the popular revolution.

The resolution vigorously assailed those officials of the old government responsible for the crisis which resulted in the overthrow of the Czar. Minister of Justice Kerensky, of the new Provisional Government, to-day decided upon a general amnesty to all political offenders.

The populace and the fully sympathetic troops of the city brooked no opposition to their control.

Baron Stokelberg fired on a group of soldiers from his window. His house was promptly stormed. The baron was dragged out. He was carried to the side of the quay and summarily executed.

Count Fredericks, the aged Minister of the Imperial Household and Aide de Camp to the Emperor, was discovered in hiding. His life was spared, but he was sent to prison to join other notables of the other regime. Meanwhile his house had been completely wrecked.

Countess Kletn Michael, long suspected as a spy, was discovered in hiding at the Chinese Legation. Soldiers promptly took her in custody.

FORMER MINISTER HAS NARROW ESCAPE.

No more dramatic incident occurred in the last few days of rioting than that of the arrest of the former Minister of War, Gen. Sukhomlinoff. A group of soldiers and of hastily armed people seized him. The soldiers demanded his instant execution, recalling vivid stories of the former Minister's duplicity and treasonable dealings.

Deputy Kerensky, of Saratoff, one of the Duma leaders in the revolt and Minister of Justice in the Provisional Government, intervened. He appealed to the mob to spare the Minister's life, declaring justice would be meted out to him. He declared Sukhomlinoff desired nothing better than immediate execution. The crowd wavered and Kerensky won the day.

But then the soldiery demanded their former chief's degradation. Suk-